President.—I do not think. Nobody recommended. At my own instance tenders were called for.

Applications for licenses for Jaggery Tapping.

126. Mr. K. J. Antony.—Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the number of applications for tapping for jaggery received in the Excise Superintendent's Office in 1102 and 1103 but delayed for more than 3 months for their disposal ;

(b) will the Government be pleased also to state:—

i. whether the delay in the disposal of such applications does not involve misery and loss of livelihood to the poor applicants ;

ii. whether the Excise Superintendent has taken any disciplinary action in respect of the applications delayed for disposal ;

iii. if the answer to (ii) is in the affirmative, the nature and result of the action taken ;

iv. if the answer to (ii) is in the negative, why no such action was taken; and

(c) the caste to which the clerk of the Excise Superintendent's Office dealing with applications for jaggery tapping belongs ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—3,510 applications in 1102 and 3,738 applications in 1103 were received for jaggery tapping. The latter part of the question cannot be answered without a laborious examination of more than 7,000 applications. Government do not think it worthwhile to undertake the task. If specific instances are brought to notice, the matter will be enquired into.

(b) (i) to (iv). No answer is necessary in view of the reply to (a).

(c) Brahmin.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—May I know how long was he holding that post ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I cannot say how long. I saw him there when I took charge. He was there long before I came there. I cannot say how long. He must have been there for more than four years.

Purchase of Ganja.

127. Mr. K. J. Antony.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the names and designations of the officers of the Excise Department deputed in the years 1101, 1102, 1103 and 1104 to purchase and bring ganja to Ernakulam and the caste to which they belong ;

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